

## N E W S R E L E A S E

**Contact:** Kevin Callori  
Patrick Joyce  
(916) 654-9029

**Date:** January 25, 2007

**News Release No.:** 07-A06

### **\$1.3 million grant will help workers laid-off from Birds Eye Foods plant in Watsonville find jobs in high growth industries**

**SACRAMENTO** – California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary Victoria Bradshaw today announced a \$1,339,867 grant to help more than 230 workers of the Birds Eye Foods plant in Watsonville find employment in high-growth industries.

The grant has been awarded to the Santa Cruz County Workforce Investment Board to provide job services and training to the displaced Birds Eye Foods workers. The assistance should help them find jobs in high-growth industries, such as in the healthcare industry, in Santa Cruz County.

“The \$1.3 million grant will help these workers receive the services and assistance they need to transition into high demand jobs,” said Bradshaw. “The funds will be used for career counseling and applicable job training necessary to compete for high-quality jobs in growing industries in the area.”

Workers will receive classroom and on-the-job training, job search assistance, labor market information, and supportive services to assist them in gaining employment in a diverse range of more than 50 occupations in such industries as construction, retail trade, and healthcare.

The services will be provided from January 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, using Workforce Investment Act funds drawn from the Governor’s 25 Percent portion of dislocated worker funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act. The California Labor & Workforce Development Agency’s Employment Development Department exercises oversight authority for the funds.

For more information about these services, please contact the Santa Cruz County Workforce Investment Board at (831) 454-4585.

# # #